

Eugene Bremond House
404 West 7th Street
Austin, Travis County
Texas

HABS No. TEX-3143

HABS
TEX
227-AUG
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TEX-3143
Page 1

HABS
Tex
227-AUST
11-

Eugene Bremond House
Austin, Travis County, Texas

ADDRESS: 404 West 7TH Street

OWNER: Mrs. Alfred H. Robinson, Sr.

OCCUPANT: Mrs. Alfred H. Robinson, Sr.

USE: Private Residence

ARCHITECT AND BUILDER: Thought to have been built by well known Austin contractor, George Fiegel.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Eugene Bremond House is one of six residences located on the same city block and built either by a Bremond or Robinson, prominent Austin businessmen of the last century. This block was a neighborhood in itself with a common area in the center reserved for a playground for the children of the related families. Of these six residences, all but one were designed and built by the Austin contractor, George Fiegel. The tract is still known as "the Bremond Block".

The house is a good example of the Victorian style.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Bremond and Robinson families arrived in Texas at an early date. John Bremond, Sr. wife Elizabeth and twelve children came to Austin from Philadelphia in 1846. In 1851, the John Robinson family arrived from Little Rock, Arkansas.

Both families prospered in Austin and were known as successful businessmen. Eventually three Bremonds married three Robinsons, Madelaine Bremond married John H. Robinson, Pauline Bremond married Al Robinson and Eugene Bremond married Mary Robinson.

Eugene Bremond became a successful banker while his brother, John, Jr., established a profitable wholesale merchandise business. Both brothers prospered in the years following the Civil War.

Eugene built the first Bremond House on the "Bremond Block" at the southwest corner. John Bremond followed some twenty four years later with the house at the southeast corner. The other three family residences followed shortly thereafter to complete the block.

George Fiegel came to Austin from New Orleans in 1873 at the age of twenty one. He quickly learned the building trade and became a dependable friend of certain prominent Austin families, the Hirshfelds, Hancocks, Robinsons, and Bremonds among others. He was commissioned for many building jobs within those family groups. He was self educated and depended upon architectural books for his designs. There was never more than a verbal contract with his clients for his services which often included the total job from design concept to working drawings to construction and even maintenance.

SOURCES

- 1) Siedo, Mary F. "George Fiegel, Contractor", Junior Historian, September 1961, page 4.
- 2) Miss Virginia Nagle, "Personal Interview by Mrs. Douglas Cooper," manuscript in the Austin Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.
- 3) Personal Interview, September 29, 1965, Miss Dorothy Fiegel, 3100 W. Wheeler, Austin, Texas.
- 4) Personal Interview, September 29, 1965, Miss Mary F. Siedo, 602 Henderson, Austin, Texas.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Architectural Description: One story frame cottage type; Semi basement

Condition of Fabric: Good

EXTERIOR

Foundation: Brick

Porches: Porch across front facade. Square section wood paired columns. Moulded caps with Victorian jigsaw brackets above. Turned balusters in balustrade.

Chimneys: Brick, interior

Openings: Double Doors, paneled with glass above; moulded transom bar; transom fixed glass. Enframement wood classic pilasters with architrave.

Windows and Shutters: 2/2 light double hung wood sash. 2 panel adjustable wood louvered shutters.

Cornice and Eaves: Victorian jigsaw brackets, dentiled eaves; moulded cornice.

INTERIOR: Access to interior was not permitted by present owner.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

Orientation and General Setting: House occupies the southwest corner of block 80; bounded on the south (front) by W. 7TH Street and on the west (side) by San Antonio Street, located several blocks from the present business district.

Enclosure: Cast iron fence.

Prepared by,

John C. Garner Jr.

John C. Garner, Jr.

October, 1965

APPROVED:

Charles S. Pope

DATE: *December 20, 1965*

Charles S. Pope
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
Western Office, Design and Construction
National Park Service